

## Helms Assures Senate Unit on Exchanges Abroad

By E. W. KENWORTHY  
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WASHINGTON, July 29 —

Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, assured the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today that the student exchange program had not been used as a cover for C.I.A. agents abroad.

Mr. Helms further assured the committee that no agents had been planted in the Peace Corps.

Because he volunteered the information and because he reported no infiltration, the committee, particularly Chairman J. W. Fulbright, was apparently disposed in Mr. Helms's favor.

Mr. Fulbright praised Mr. Helms's testimony and accepted his apology for a letter that supported an editorial critical of Mr. Fulbright.

The refusal of Mr. Helms's predecessor, Adm. William F. Raborn, to answer Mr. Fulbright's questions about the student exchange program had aroused the committee's concern.

It had also been a factor in producing the 14-to-5 vote last May 17 by which the panel reported a resolution to include three of its members on the subcommittee supervising C.I.A. activities. The watchdog subcommittee is now composed of seven ranking members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

The Senate sidetracked this resolution July 14 by 61 to 28. Mr. Helms appeared before the committee this morning following a furor on the Senate floor yesterday over his letter praising an editorial in The St. Louis Globe-Democrat on July 14 that attacked Mr. Fulbright.

Entitled "Brickbats for Fulbright," the editorial said that the Senate, by killing the proposal to expand the watchdog committee, had given the Arkansas Democrat "his come-uppance." The plan of the "crafty Arkansan," the editorial went on, could have meant "the end" of an agency whose "accomplishments are legion."

### Drafted by Assistant

Mr. Helms quickly called Mr. Fulbright after Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, had read the editorial and letter on the Senate floor. Mr. Helms said he had made a mistake, apologized for the letter and arranged to appear before the committee.

After a two-hour session, Mr. Helms told reporters:

"I realize it was a mistake. I regret it and I have apologized."

Mr. Fulbright said Mr. Helms had been "very forthright" and "I certainly accepted his apology."

The chairman said Mr. Helms had told the committee that the letter had been drafted by an assistant and that he had signed it, along with several others submitted to him at the time, without giving it the attention he should have.

Apparently, Mr. Fulbright said, Mr. Helms's subordinate had focused his attention on the two final sentences in the editorial praising the C.I.A. rather than on the criticism of the chairman.

Mr. McCarthy, who had sponsored the expansion resolution, said Mr. Helms's explanation had been "quite satisfactory."

Rear Adm. Redfield Mason walked slowly across the parched grass of the parade ground at the defunct Naval Shipyard in Brooklyn to receive a farewell from his fellow officers and friends.

Officers in full dress (swords, braid, medals and ribbons), a 13-gun salute and 700 guests greeted the most senior rear admiral in the Navy, who was ceremoniously retired yesterday as commandant of the Third Naval District. He will be officially retired on Sunday as head of the district, which encompasses New York, Connecticut and northern New Jersey.

Admiral Mason, who has been in the Navy for 45 years, did tours as an intelligence officer with the office of the Chief of Naval Operations and commanded the attack transport Bergen and the destroyer tender Sierra.

He also served with the Armed Forces Security Agency and during the Korean war he commanded Service Division 31 and Service Squadron 3. For this he received the Legion of Merit. His other awards include the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, United Nations Service Medal and Korean Service Medal.

discussion ranged over C.I.A. activities. Some members said later that they had learned considerably more about the agency than they had from the occasional appearances before the committee of the last three directors—Allen W. Dulles, John A. McCone and Admiral Raborn.

The student exchange program was conceived by Mr. Fulbright in 1945. He suggested using the local foreign currency proceeds from the sale of sur-

### Rear Adm. Redfield Mason

In 1956 Admiral Mason correctly named the women of six mythological threesomes and won \$100,000 on the television quiz show "The Big Surprise." The six groups were the Gorgons, the bird women known as the Harpies, the misshapen Graces, the Graces, the guardians of the seasons known as the Horae or Hours, and the avengers of crime called the Furies.

plus United States property abroad to finance the exchange of students, teachers, scientists and artists. The success of the program is a matter of great pride to Mr. Fulbright.

When Admiral Raborn made one of his rare appearances before the committee last February, Mr. Fulbright asked him whether the C.I.A. had ever used the program as a cover for agents.

Admiral Raborn refused to

lation of the law creating the agency from supplying such information.

In response to Mr. Fulbright's further questioning, Admiral Raborn acknowledged that he would give such information, if requested, to the watchdog committee headed by Richard M. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

In a recent television interview, Admiral Raborn said he had answered "no" to Mr. Fulbright's question of whether the exchange program had been a cover for agents.

During the debate yesterday, Mr. Fulbright said the admiral had "suffered a failure of memory."

The questioning of Mr. Helms was reported to have been blunt but not aggressive and the members, as the Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, put it, were impressed by the director's "candor."

There was no support in the committee for a demand by Senator Wayne Morse, Democrat of Oregon, that Mr. Helms resign.

Mr. McCarthy said he thought the discussion gave some hope of reaching a compromise whereby Mr. Helms would give the Foreign Relations Committee the kind of reports he gives the Russell subcommittee.

Mr. Fulbright said he was not so sure about that.

### Saigon to Get Canadian Vaccine

OTTAWA, July 29 (UPI)—

Canada will provide oral vaccine to immunize 165,000 Saigon school children against poliomyelitis this fall, External Affairs Secretary Paul Martin announced today. The vaccine brings to more than \$1-million the amount of medical aid Canada has allocated this year for South Vietnam.

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